The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has identified the following centers in Himachal Pradesh for construction of godowns:—

| Sl. No. | Location | Capacity |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Simla | 10,000 MT |
| 2. | Bilaspur | 5,000 MT |
| 3. | Nahan, District Sirmore | 5,000 MT |
| 4. | Dehra, District Kangra | 5,000 MT |

(c) Yes Sir, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for construction of godowns and purchase of Vans/Trucks in the States/Union Territories including Himachal Pradesh are continuing.

(d) Funds under the schemes are allotted on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments after ascertaining the utilization of assistance sanctioned during previous years. No funds have been allotted to Himachal Pradesh during the current financial year.

**Enhanced Commodities for Areas unable to produce Foodgrains**

†160. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Government led by Shri Narasimha Rao had identified blocks in the country which were unable to produce foodgrains and a provision was made to provide per capita per month ten kg. wheat and eight kg. rice under the special supply scheme of Government's fair price ration; and

(b) whether Government would consider to re-implement the said scheme for such areas, particularly, hilly and sandy areas, where

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

production of foodgrains is less than the average; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) launched in the year 1992 covered 1775 blocks of the country located in the areas where the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP), Hilly Areas Development Programme (HADP) and Desert Development Programme were operated. Under RPDS, foodgrains were supplied for ensuring availability of upto 20 kg. per family per month in the identified 1775 blocks in the States/UTs at 50 paisa per kg. less than the Central Issue Price (CIP) for normal PDS.

(b) The Government is not considering reimplementing the said scheme. With the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which covers "poor in all areas", the Revamped Public Distribution System with its emphasis on "all in poor areas" became redundant.

**Making Essential Commodities Competitive in International Market**

†161. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of wheat, rice and sugar in the country have risen to such an extent that the said items have gone out of competition in the international market;

(b) if not, whether it is also a fact that Government have increased the import duty to stop import of such items into the country;

(c) whether steps have been taken by Government to promote export of said items after restricting their import; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.